

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 SPC-01 L-02

EUR-10 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

AF-04 IO-03 DRC-01 /067 W

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R 141125Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3769

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T CAIRO 2746

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: PENDING CABINET CHANGE

1. RELIABLE SOURCE WHO HAS GOOD CONTACTS IN MINISTRY
OF INTERIOR TELLS US THAT SADAT IS MEETING TODAY AND
TOMORROW WITH SAYED MAREI AT RESORT TOWN OF BOURG EL ARAB
NEAR ALEXANDRIA. SADAT INTENDS TO APPOINT MAREI AS
PRIME MINISTER AND GENERAL SADEK AS MINISTER OF WAR

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SOMETIME PRIOR TO RAMADAN, WHICH BEGINS THIS YEAR IN

LATTER PART OF OCTOBER. SADAT AND MAREI ARE NOW WORKING OUT DETAILS OF NEW POLICY TO BE ADOPTED AFTER MAREI BECOMES PRIME MINISTER.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, NEW GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE A CHANGE IN FUNDAMENTAL STATE POLICY FROM SOCIALISM TO DEMOCRACY. IN RETURN FOR THIS SHIFT TO THE RIGHT, KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS PROMISED TO MEET ALL OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF ESSENTIAL FOOD IMPORTS. SADAT HAS ALREADY REQUESTED ALL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES TO PREPARE ESTIMATES OF PRESENT AND FUTURE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSMISSION TO FAISAL.

3. REAPPOINTMENT OF SADEK AS MINISTER OF WAR IS PRIMARILY RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM YOUNGER ARMY OFFICERS WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH LACK OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. PRESENT MINISTER OF WAR, ISMAIL ALY, WAS APPOINTED SPECIFICALLY TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY SUPPORT FOR EGYPT. ARMY CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS FAILED IN HIS TASK. SADEK ALSO FITS WELL WITH MAREI, SINCE BOTH MEN ARE CONSIDERED PRO-WESTERN AND ANTI-SOCIALIST.

4. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS SUBMITTED NUMEROUS REPORTS TO SADAT WARNING HIM THAT HIGH DEGREE OF PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION NOW EXISTS IN EGYPT. COMPLAINTS ABOUT SUPPLY SHORTAGES, GRAFT IN GOVERNMENT, AND LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARDS RECOVERY OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE BECOMING MORE OPEN AND WIDESPREAD. PUBLIC IS BEGINNING TO CRITICIZE SADAT DIRECTLY FOR THESE SHORTCOMINGS, AND POLICE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ARREST ANYONE FOR SUCH CRITICISMS IN ORDER TO AVOID DISTURBANCES THAT COULD FOLLOW SUCH ARRESTS. BY EASING ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS AND OBTAINING LARGE INJECTIONS OF SAUDI CAPITAL, SADAT HOPES TO REDUCE THESE DISSATISFACTIONS AND BUILD CONFIDENCE IN HIS REGIME.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD PERSISTANT RUMORS OF PENDING CABINET CHANGES IN RECENT WEEKS, AND PROMINENT SECRET

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PLACE GIVEN TO MAREI IN EGYPTIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF ALGIERS CONFERENCE WOULD BEAR OUT HYPOTHESIS THAT HE IS IN LINE TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER.

WILEY

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